

## STORY 69.

## PLAIN SPEAKING BEFORE A DESPOTIC RULER.

ONCE when Khalifa Mansur went on the pilgrimage and reached Mana Muna he sent for Sufyan Sauri. Sufyan came but much against his grain and said to Mansur, "Mansur, fear God. The world is full to the overflowing with your acts of tyranny."

Mansur said, "If you have any wish let me know it?" Sufyan replied, "the descendants of those through whose sacrifices you have attained to this greatness are dying of starvation."

Mansur said, "Please ask something for yourself." Sufyan said, "When (Hazrat) Omar performed the pilgrimage he did not spend more than ten dirhems. But your transport arrangements do not seem to be sufficient for the money which is to be spent by you."

If such plainspeaking had not been crushed by Persian despotism Muslims would still be ruling over the greater part of the World.

## STORY 70.

## THE EXHORTATIONS OF A MUSLIM TO HARUN-AL-RASHID,

ONE day Ibni-Samak went to see Harun-al-Rashid. Harun called for water. He was about to drink when Ibni-Samak said "Commander of the faithful, wait a little and before drinking answer my question. Suppose you are intensely thirsty and water cannot be had. How much will you pay for one cup of water?" Harun said "I will give half my kingdom for it."

Ibni-Samak said, "now you may drink." When he had drunk he again said, "suppose somehow the water does not get out of your system what will you give to get it out." Harun replied "perhaps I will give the other half too." Upon this Ibni-Samak said "then bear in mind that your whole empire has the value of one cup of water and a little urine. So there is no reason to be proud of it, and I take this opportunity of advising you that as long as you have the opportunity, do good to God's creatures entrusted to your care." When Harun heard this he was greatly moved and he wept.